

The Honorable Fred Grandy
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

January 28, 1993

Dear Representative Grandy:

I am writing to you to express my dismay over the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rule Making PR Docket 92-235. This ruling would affect the channels allotted for the operation of radio-controlled aircraft, a hobby which I along with hundreds of thousands of Americans pursue and enjoy. The crux of the problem is this--the proposed rule would allow powerful mobile communications transmitters to operate on frequencies perilously close to those being used by modelers. In fact, because of the liberal frequency tolerances allowed, many of these transmitters would be operating directly on our channels.

Congressman, the potential danger of a mobile transmitter "powering up" in the vicinity of model aircraft operations is very real. Today's models are faster, larger, and much more sophisticated than those of days past. A one-quarter scale model aircraft with a modified chain-saw engine for power, or a twenty-pound ducted fan jet model attaining speeds of 200mph+ would be fearful missiles if control should suddenly be taken away from the modeler by a powerful mobile transmitter. Operation of such models has an admirable safety record because of the efforts of modelers and the modeling industry, of which we have three Iowa based mainstays (Sig Manufacturing-Montezuma, Byron Originals-Ilda Grove, & Nosen Models-Sibley). The modelers of the U.S. have just gone through a major frequency realignment at great expense so that the safe operation of our models would not be threatened. I myself have four sets of radio-control gear which would have to be modified or replaced if the FCC's proposed rule is allowed to stand. This would cost me between \$300.00 and \$1,000.00 and would come only a year after modifications were performed on my equipment and that of many thousands of other modelers in an effort to improve safety of operations and be "good neighbors" on the frequencies assigned to us by the FCC. The economic hardship that would be imposed is obvious, but even more obvious is the potential danger of allowing high powered, low frequency tolerance, mobile communications transmitters to splatter the airwaves with RF (radio frequency) that could and would easily "shoot down" a model or models operating